

Message Text

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67

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 ARA-11 EA-11 NEA-10 RSR-01 /148 W

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R 181419 Z MAY 73

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8042

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 1877

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, WA, SF

SUBJ: SYG' S REPORT ON NAMIBIA

REF: A) STATE 88457; B) STATE 87854

C) USUN 1669

SUMMARY: DURING CALL ON SCALI MAY 17 VON HIRSCHBERG (SOUTH AFRICA) EXPLAINED SOUTH AFRICA' S POSITION WITH REGARD TO SYG' S REPORT AND EXPRESSED HOPE SYG- SAG TALKS WOULD CONTINUE. END SUMMARY.

1. VON HIRSCHBERG CALLED ON SCALI MAY 17 AT HIS REQUEST TO DISCUSS SYG' S REPORT ON NAMIBIA. BEFORE GETTING INTO FULL DISCUSSION OF REPORT, HE ASKED SCALI WHAT US THOUGHT OF IT AND SAG' S POSITION. SCALI MADE POINTS ALONG LINES REFTELS A AND C AND STATED THAT HIS MAIN CONCERN WAS TO SEE THAT THE SYG- SAG TALKS BE CONTINUED.

2. IN RESPONSE TO EXPRESSION OF CONCERN OVER IMPLEMENTATION OF HOMELANDS BILL IN NAMIBIA. VON HIRSCHBERG SAID THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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SAG HAD NEVER USED WORD " HOMELANDS" IN NAMIBIA CONTEXT. HE SAID DIFFERENT REGIONS IN NAMIBIA WERE CALLED NATIVE NATIONS AND THAT BILL WHICH NOW BEING IMPLEMENTED IN OVAMBOLAND WAS NOT DESIGNED TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT BUT MORE TO

GIVE PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT REGIONS OF NAMIBIA EXPERIENCE IN SELF GOVERNMENT. HE SAID EXPERIENCE IN SELF GOVERNMENT COULD NOT BE GIVEN ON CENTRAL BASIS BUT HAD TO BE DONE ON A REGIONAL BASIS. HE NOTED THAT CURRENT LEGISLATION PREDETERMINED NOTHING WITH RESPECT TO FUTURE OF TERRITORY AND REFERRED SAG STATEMENT IN SYG' S REPORT TO THAT EFFECT (I. E., PARA 1 OF SAG STATEMENT).

3. WITH RESPECT TO POSSIBILITY OF NAMIBIA BECOMING INDEPENDENT AS A UNITARY STATE WITH ITS TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY PRESERVED HE ALLOWED THAT THIS WAS POSSIBLE AND DREW ATTENTION AGAIN TO FACT THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IN SAG STATEMENT WHICH WOULD COMPROMISE FULL ACT OF SELF- DETERMINATION IN TERRITORY. HE SAID HE REALIZED THAT THERE WAS SOME SUSPICION ON THIS MATTER BUT POINTED OUT THAT SAG WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WISHES OF PEOPLE WITH RESPECT TO FINAL ACT OF SELF- DETERMINATION.

4. TURNING TO DETENTION OF CERTAIN PERSONS IN OVAMBOLAND, VON HIRSCHBERG ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THIS WAS AN UNFORTUNATE EXPERIENCE AND HE RECALLED THAT SAG HAD ACCEPTED PRINCIPLE OF POLITICAL FREEDOM IN TERRITORY DURING ITS DISCUSSIONS WITH SYG. DETENTIONS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN OVAMBOLAND, HOWEVER, WERE DONE PRINCIPALLY AT REQUEST OF CHIEF COUNCILLOR. ARRESTS HAD BEEN MADE AS RESULT OF FACT THAT POLITICAL PARTY INVOLVED UNWILLING TO GIVE HIM TIME TO ALLOW OVAMBOLAND LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO COMPLETE ITS STUDY OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN AREA WITH VIEW ESTABLISHING SPECIFIC GUIDELINES. ACCORDING TO VON HIRSCHBERG, CHIEF COUNCILLOR HAD ASKED THAT ARRESTS BE MADE BECAUSE HE FELT THAT DEMONSTRATIONS THAT HAD BEEN ORGANIZED WERE DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO EMBARRASS SAG AT TIME WHEN SYG WOULD BE SUBMITTING HIS REPORT. ARRESTS THEREFORE WERE DECISION TAKEN BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN OVAMBOLAND AND NOT BY SAG. SCALI SAID THAT INCIDENTS LIKE THIS COULD ONLY AROUSE SUSPICION AND CREATE GREATER DIFFICULTIES IN UN. HE SAID THAT FOR SAKE OF LONG- TERM OBJECTIVES HE PERSONALLY WOULD HAVE FELT IT BETTER TO LEAN OVER BACKWARDS IN OPPOSITE DIRECTION RATHER THAN TAKE ACTION LEADING TO DETENTIONS. VON HIRSCHBERG REPLIED THAT THIS QUESTION OF WEIGHING PRIORITIES AND THAT SAG REALIZED IT SHOULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION WHICH MIGHT

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ULTIMATELY " UPSET THE APPLE CART."

5. TURNING AGAIN TO REPORT, VON HIRSCHBERG SAID THAT THERE HAS BEEN IN FACT SOME PROGRESS IF ALL THREE REPORTS OF SYG WERE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. AS RESULT OF THESE REPORTS AND SYG- SAG CONTACTS, UN HAD DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN FUTURE STATUS OF TERRITORY. HE SAID THAT, IF TALKS WERE TERMINATED, THERE WOULD BE NO SYG INVOLVEMENT. IT WAS IN INTEREST OF UN TO KEEP TALKS GOING. (AFTER MEETING HE NOTED WRYLY TO MISOFF THAT WITHOUT UN INVOLVEMENT SAG WOULD BE LEFT TO ITS OWN DEVICES.) HE NOTED THAT SAG HAD DONE NOTHING SO FAR THAT WOULD PRECLUDE UN OBJECTIVES IN NAMIBIA AND FOR THIS REASON TALKS SHOULD BE CONTINUED. HE REALIZED THAT REASON FOR SYG' S COOLNESS TENDED TO BE DUE TO FACT THAT SYG

HAD LEARNED HIS LESSON FROM ESCHER REPORT. SYG THEREFORE UNWILLING TO GO TOO FAR OUT ON LIMB AT THIS JUNCTURE. HE PRESUMED THAT SYG WOULD EXPRESS HIMSELF MORE CLEARLY IN SC AFTER HAVING ASSESSED RESULTS OF HIS DISCUSSIONS IN OAU AND DECISION OF OAU ON MANDATE.

6. TURNING AGAIN TO QUESTION OF SELF- DETERMINATION, VON HIRSCHBERG NOTED THAT REFERENCE TO TEN YEARS AT LENGTH OF TIME NEEDED FOR PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA TO EXERCISE SELF- DETERMINATION WAS REQUIRED BECAUSE SAG HAD TO PUT FINISHING TOUCHES ON CERTAIN TECHNICAL AND AGRICULTURAL TRAINING PROJECTS WHICH IT HAD INSTITUTED. THIS TIME LIMIT, HOWEVER, DID NOT PRECLUDE POSSIBILITY OF SELF- DETERMINATION BEING EXERCISED BEFORE TEN YEAR DEADLINE. IN ADDITION, SELF- DETERMINATION FOR TERRITORY AS A WHOLE WAS NOT PRECLUDED. AFTER MEETING WITH SCALI, VON HIRSCHBERG TOLD MISOFF THAT ONE OF REASONS FOR PROPOSING TEN YEARS AS MORE LIKELY TIME FOR THE EXERCISE OF SELF- DETERMINATION IN TERRITORY WAS DUE TO FACT THAT WHITES IN NAMIBIA WERE FAR MORE INTRANSIGENT THAN WOULD BE EXPECTED AND THAT THIS IS ONE OF PROBLEMS SAG HAS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHEN DISCUSSING FUTURE OF NAMIBIA.

7. BEFORE TAKING LEAVE OF SCALI, VON HIRSCHBERG NOTED THAT SAG STATEMENT AS CONTAINED IN SYG' S REPORT HAD BEEN ARRIVED AT UNDER VERY DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES. DURING FOUR MEETINGS OF CABINET ON ITS RESPONSE TO SYG, FIVE SOUTH AFRICAN POLICEMEN HAD BEEN KILLED IN CAPRIVI STRIP BY TERRORISTS COMING FROM ZAMBIA AND AT SAME TIME C

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